

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 4, 17, 18, 24 and 30.

Please amend claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 19, 20, 22, 25 and 27 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of specifically detecting a strain of *Bacillus anthracis* containing a surface array protein (SEQ ID NO:1) in a test sample, the method comprising:

contacting a test sample with a first antibody that can specifically bind to *Bacillus anthracis* surface array protein (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein the first antibody forms a complex with the surface array protein if the surface array protein is present in the test sample; and

detecting whether the surface array protein is bound to the first antibody with a second antibody that binds to the surface array protein, wherein the presence of surface array protein is indicative of the presence of *Bacillus anthracis* in the test sample.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first or second antibody is a recombinantly produced antibody.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the first or second antibody is a recombinantly produced polyclonal antibody.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first or second antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the test sample is not cultured prior to contacting with the first antibody.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first antibody is immobilized on a solid support.